



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO.  | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.        | CONFIRMATION NO.       |
|--|-------------|----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 10/509,654   | 05/05/2005  | Maria Larsson        | 133087.08801(100679-1PUS)  | 2387                   |
| 52286  | 7590        | 07/17/2007           |                            |                        |
| Pepper Hamilton LLP<br>500 Grant Street<br>One Mellon Bank Center, 50th Floor<br>Pittsburgh, PA 15219-2502 |             |                      | EXAMINER<br>SAEED, KAMAL A |                        |
|  |             |                      | ART UNIT<br>1626           | PAPER NUMBER           |
|  |             |                      | MAIL DATE<br>07/17/2007    | DELIVERY MODE<br>PAPER |

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/509,654

Applicant(s)

LARSSON, MARIA

Examiner

Kamal A. Saeed

Art Unit

1626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/7/2005</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### ***DETAILED ACTION***

Claims 1-7 are currently pending in this application.

### **Information Disclosure Statement**

Applicant's Information Disclosure Statements, filed on February 07, 2005 has been considered. Please refer to Applicant's copy of the 1449 submitted herewith.

### **Priority**

This application is a 371 of PCT/GB03/01395 filed on March 28, 2003 which claims benefit of foreign priority to Application No. SWEDEN 0201005-6 filed 4/02/2002.

### **Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103**

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a), which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections, set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

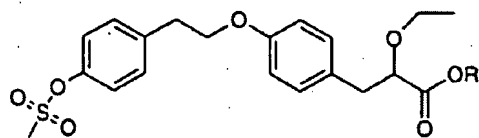
The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

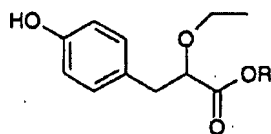
Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being obvious by Andersson, U.S. Patent No. 6,258,850.

Art Unit: 1626

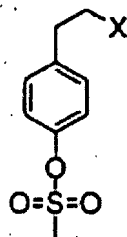
Applicants instant invention in claim 1 teach a method of preparing compounds of 2-ethoxy-3-[4-(2-{4'-methanesulfonyloxyphenyl}ethoxy)phenyl]propionic acid of Formula



, comprising reacting compound of Formula



with compound of Formula

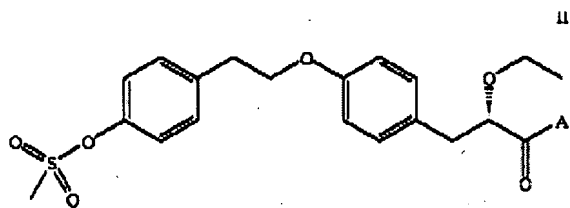


in presence of a base and using

water as a diluent.

Determination of the scope and content of the prior art (MPEP §2141.01)

Andersson teach a process of preparing compounds of Formula



by using the same stating materials as the one used

in the present invention. ( See U.S. Patent No. 6,258,850 B1, claim 2, columns 19 and 20, step b)

Ascertainment of the difference between the prior art and the claims (MPEP §2141.02)

The difference between the prior art process of Andersson, and the process claimed in this application is that Andersson process is silent about the use of water as a diluent in the reaction.

Finding of prima facie obviousness--rational and motivation (MPEP §2142-2413)

Art Unit: 1626

One skilled in the art would have found the claimed process prima facie obvious because it is well established to those skilled in chemical art, the use of water as a diluent in order to help the reactants to mix in reaction is well known in the field. One skilled in the art would have been motivated to use of water as diluent in a known process as taught by Andersson to improve the yield and reaction conditions. Therefore, the instant claimed process would have been suggested to one skilled in the art.

### **Telephone Inquiry**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kamal A Saeed, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571) 272-0705. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T 7:00 AM- 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Joseph K. McKane, can be reached at (571) 272-0699.

Communication via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by applicant and should be addressed to [joseph.mckane@uspto.gov]. All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees will not communicate with applicant via Internet e-mail where sensitive data will be exchanged or where there exists a possibility that sensitive data could be identified unless there is of record an express waiver of the confidentiality requirements under 35 U.S.C. 122 by the applicant. See the Interim Internet Usage Policy published by the Patent and Trademark Office Official Gazette on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Art Unit: 1626

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or public PAIR only. For more information about the pair system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197.



KAMAL A. SAEED, PH.D.  
PRIMARY EXAMINER